

Commonwealth of Virginia
Rabies Testing and Cooperative Programs

February, 2005

This document summarizes the various programs in which the rabies laboratories around the state of Virginia have been asked to participate.

The following studies are cooperative programs in which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have elicited state laboratories' assistance for target specimen submission:

CDC Salivary Gland Study: Testing laboratories have been requested to submit the brain material and heads, or capits of rabies-diagnosed rodents (i.e. mice, rats, squirrels, chipmunks, nutria, groundhogs, muskrats, etc.), lagomorphs (rabbits, etc.), or other atypical animal species. These specimens may be forwarded to the DCLS. Shipping instructions are available at the end of this document (see page 4.) Each shipment must comply with shipping regulations detailed in IATA 1.5 and 49 CFR Section 1720700 [U.S. Department of Transportation.] Upon arrival at CDC, staff removes the rabid animal's salivary glands in order to detect rabies virus/antigen.

CDC Mammary Gland Study: Diagnostic laboratories which have the facilities to receive and accept intact livestock carcasses are requested to necropsy and forward the mammary glands, milk and brain material of rabies-positive animals (i.e. cows, goats, etc.) to CDC. Ship samples on dry ice after notification to:

Rabies Laboratory
Attn: Dr. Charles Rupprecht (404) 639-1050
DASH, Bldg. 4, Rm B32
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333

Each shipment must comply with shipping regulations detailed in IATA 1.5 and 49 CFR Section 1720700 [U.S. Department of Transportation.] Upon arrival at CDC, staff analyzes samples in order to detect rabies virus/antigen.

CDC/VDH/DCLS Monoclonal Typing of Rabies Variants: DCLS-Richmond will perform testing to determine the rabies variant of positive specimens and/or the introduction of new or translocated rabies variants into Virginia. All

rabies testing laboratories in Virginia must submit rabies positive specimens to DCLS-Richmond. Rabies-infected brain tissues should be sent as soon as diagnosis is completed to the Richmond Lab. Shipping instructions are available at the end of this document (see page 4.) Each shipment must comply with shipping regulations detailed in IATA 1.5 and 49 CFR Section 1720700 [U.S. Department of Transportation.]

CDC/VDH Animal Pre-exposure Vaccine Failure: Brain tissue from rabies diagnosed animals which also have a current, valid rabies vaccination are forwarded to CDC for further analysis. VDH/Epi should notify laboratories of the existence of these specimens on a case by case basis since the vaccination status of an animal is not always available at the time of collection and/or submission to the laboratory. VDH/Epi will request that tissues be shipped at that time. For further information, please contact Dr. Susanne Jenkins at VDH/Epi at (804)864-8141.

The programs detailed below involve the coordination of various state diagnostic rabies laboratories, DCLS and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) animal health laboratories and the United States Department of Agriculture.

USDA Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance: Tissue from rabies negative cattle are forwarded for BSE testing to the nearest VDACS laboratory (see list below.) The obex, a portion of brain stem, may be collected by trained submitters. Trained submitters are identified as health professionals or laboratorians who have viewed the APHIS, VS BSE surveillance training CD and have been added to the USDA's list of Virginia submitters. Information about collector training and direct surveillance specimen submission may be obtained by phoning the USDA area office at (804)343-2560(workload sent in '05: 38; workload so far in '06: 22). Specimens are shipped in leak proof bags or containers as detailed in IATA 1.5 and 49 CFR Section 1720700 [U.S. Department of Transportation] to the nearest VDACS laboratory Monday thru Thursday. The receiving lab (see list below) should be notified of the impending delivery prior to shipping.

VDACS Scrapie Testing: Rabies-negative brain tissues of sheep and goats received directly from local health departments are forwarded for scrapie testing to the state's regional VDACS laboratories. Tissues must include the brain stem and are packaged in leak proof bags or containers with frozen cold packs. These are shipped in

IATA 1.5 and 49 CFR Section 1720700 [U.S. Department of Transportation] packaging to the nearest regional VDACS laboratory lab on a Monday thru Thursday schedule. The receiving lab (see list below) should be notified of the impending delivery prior to shipping.

Division of Animal and Food Industry Services/Office of Laboratory Services:

Harrisonburg Regional Animal Health Laboratory
Director: Dr. David Brown
116 Reservoir Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(Phone: 540-434-3897)

Ivor Regional Animal Health Laboratory
Lab Director: Dr. Barry Dawkins
34591 General Mahone Blvd.
Ivor, VA 23866
(Phone: 757-859-6221)

Lynchburg Regional Animal Health Laboratory
Lab Director: Dr. Susan Gardner
4832 Tyreeanna Road
Lynchburg, VA 24504
(Phone: 434-947-2518)

Warrenton Regional Animal Health Laboratory
Lab Director: Dr. Karl Magura
272 Academy Hill Road
Warrenton, VA 20186
(Phone: 540-347-6385)

Wytheville Regional Animal Health Laboratory
Lab Director: Dr. Jack Tate
250 Cassell Road
Wytheville, VA 24382
(Phone: 276-228-5501)

Arboviral Testing of Rabies Negative Horses: As part of Virginia's Arbovirus Surveillance and Response Plan, the DCLS-Richmond will perform molecular testing for West Nile Fever and Eastern Equine Encephomyelitis virus infection in horse brains diagnosed as rabies-negative. VDACS and rabies diagnostic laboratories should forward rabies negative brain tissues packaged in leak proof bags or containers with frozen cold packs. Shipping instructions are available at the end of this document (see below.) These are shipped in IATA 1.5 and 49 CFR Section 1720700 [U.S. Department of Transportation]

packaging to DCLS on a Monday thru Thursday schedule. DCLS should be notified of the impending delivery prior to shipping by contacting Denise Pettit at (804) 648-4480 ext. 281 or (804) 648-4480 ext. 292

USDA/VDH/DCLS Wildlife Oral Rabies Vaccine Program: DCLS-Abingdon and Richmond laboratories perform testing in support of regional Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) programs administered by USDA and VDH.

Shipments to DCLS-Richmond

Participating entities may utilize DCLS-Richmond Rabies Laboratory in order to facilitate these programs by arranging shipments to DCLS-Richmond which will in turn forward specimens to the proper facility. You should notify the DCLS-Richmond Rabies Section at (804) 648-4480 ext. 271 or 275 by phone. Please ship Monday through Thursday. The DCLS courier may be utilized or you may ship via private courier to following address:

**DCLS
Attn: Rabies Lab
600 N. 5th Street
Richmond, VA 23219**

Each shipment must comply with shipping regulations detailed in IATA 1.5 and 49 CFR Section 1720700 [U.S. Department of Transportation.]